

(From *The Canadian Nurse*, June 1925.)

THE SPECIFIC CAUSE OF CANCER.

A very interesting paper by Julian London, B.A., M.B., M.R.C.S., F.A.C.P., Chief Physician, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Associate in Medicine, University of Toronto, and Dr. Jas. McCormack, entitled "Preliminary Report on the Glover Micro-organism as the specific cause of Carcinoma," appeared in the *Canada Lancet and Practitioner* for January of this year. The authors describe how they took tissue and blood from cancerous mice, and from these sources were able to isolate and culture a specific micro-organism which was observed to pass through a decidedly peculiar life-cycle. On account of certain characteristics exhibited by this micro-organism it is believed that it is a member or near relative of the moulds or hyphomycetes. If this work is confirmed and accepted, cancer will come to be defined as a chronic infective disease due to the Glover hyphomycete, which, in certain stages of its existence, grows in epithelial cells and stimulates them to unwonted reproductive activity. Further reports will be awaited with interest, and it is hoped that the work will lead to more efficient treatment of this terrible scourge to which humanity has been subjected from earliest times.

(From *The American Journal of Nursing*, June 1925.)

THE MUSTARD PACK.

By E. NORA NAGLE, R.N.

Mustard as a counter-irritant has long been used both by the medical profession and the laity. Easily obtained and easily applied, it has been used with good effect in the hospital and in the home. The mustard pack is just one of the many methods—and a very good method—of applying mustard as a counter-irritant. It is used in such conditions as (1) a beginning bronchitis, to relieve the congestion and resulting dyspnoea which is so distressing to the patient; and (2) to ward off an attack of asthma. Adrenalin is usually used with the treatment in this instance. The treatment may be ordered to be given once or twice in the day for three consecutive days. It is rarely continued for any longer period. The procedure of the treatment is as follows:—

Equipment necessary—(1) Three rounded tablespoons of ground mustard (preferably from a freshly opened can). (2) A basin and hot water. (3) Two bath towels. (4) Two soft warm blankets. (5) Warmed oil or vaseline and cotton balls for lubrication of the skin. The mustard is mixed with ten ounces of hot water and stirred for two minutes. One bath towel is immersed in the solution and squeezed partly dry, placed in the warm basin and covered with a towel. The equipment is carried to the bedside. It is essential that the room be warm and free from draughts. One blanket is folded under and over the child, replacing the upper bed clothes, which are folded to the foot of the bed. The patient's garments are removed, except the diaper in the case of an infant. The skin is anointed well, but sparingly, with the warm oil or vaseline. The mustard towel is shaken out and is folded around the child's body from the